

Given a hypothesis, the reader selects from a list those details that support the hypothesis most effectively.

UNIT 7
Lesson 1
Understanding Details

TECHNICAL TALK

When you pick up a newspaper, you notice one or more headlines. Each of the headlines represents the hypothesis or main idea of the story that is printed. Some of the details relate to the headline, others do not. A few of the sentences just serve to describe some things. If you are a good reader, you should be able to pick out the important sentences.

TRY IT

Let's practice to see if you can find the sentences that relate to a hypothesis. Our hypothesis is: Insulating your house will keep it warmer in winter. Here are the sentences:

- (1) Insulation is made from different fibers.
- (2) The insulation keeps the heat from escaping from your house.
- (3) It is not difficult to provide insulation.
- (4) The insulation materials help keep cold air from entering your house.

If you answered with sentences 2 and 4, you are correct. Sentences 1 and 3 have little to do with the hypothesis. Read the sentences in the next story and pick out those that deal directly with the hypothesis.



JOHN J. PERSHING: A GREAT AMERICAN GENERAL

Hypothesis: John J. Pershing was one of America's greatest generals.

(1) General John Pershing was born in 1860 in Missouri. (2) During his early life, he followed the profession of teaching. (3) He was graduated from West Point as a second lieutenant and served in the Spanish-American War. (4) During the war he fought in the Philippines and led his men to many victories. (5) Later, in 1913, he completely defeated the Moro in his last Philippine campaign. (6) During World War I, he was made commander in chief of United States troops in Europe. (7) He was well-liked by many people. (8) He had the ability to take inexperienced soldiers and make first-class fighters of them. (9) Because of his outstanding leadership, he was made General of the Armies of the United States. (10) His wife and children died in a tragic fire. (11) He died in 1948 at the age of 88.

There are five sentences that support the hypothesis. Write down the numbers of these five sentences. Check your answers with the key to see how well you did.

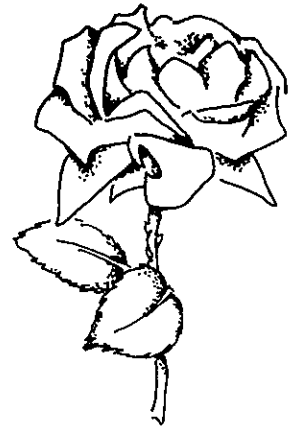
When you are trying to find supporting sentences for a hypothesis, be sure to look carefully for words that prove the statement. Words which describe and tell the reason for something are important. Give yourself further practice on this skill by completing lesson 2, which deals with roses.

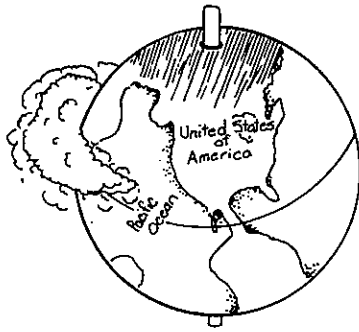
ARE ROSES YOUR FAVORITE FLOWER?

Hypothesis: Roses are one of the most beautiful flowers that are grown.

(1) Roses have been grown and cultivated for hundreds of years all over the world. (2) Some scientists have found the dried remains of flowers in the graves of persons who died before 1600. (3) There are many kinds of roses, such as tea roses and climbing roses. (4) Roses appeal to many people because they have many different colors and blends. (5) The petals are soft and most of them make a very pleasant smell. (6) Many of the roses we have today came from wild varieties which are found in open fields. (7) Some roses look pretty because the petals are arranged in order and open at various times. (8) The centers of some roses are delightful because they look fuzzy and lifelike. (9) A rosebush may grow buds for several years if it is cultivated and fertilized properly. (10) The long, graceful stems of roses make them suitable for most colorful flower arrangements.

Write down the numbers of the five sentences that support the hypothesis. Check your answers with the key.





THE MIGHTY PACIFIC

Read the following sentences which relate to the Pacific Ocean. After you have finished, find those sentences that support the hypothesis underlined below.

Hypothesis: The Pacific Ocean is the largest and deepest body of water in the world.

(1) The Pacific Ocean covers approximately one-third of the world's surface and at one point is over 36,000 feet deep. (2) The Pacific contains a number of inlet seas such as the Sea of Japan and the Coral Sea. (3) The deepest waters in the world are found off the coast of Asia in the Pacific. (4) There are numerous kinds of currents in the ocean—some are warm, some cold. (5) The winds that blow over the Pacific vary in intensity from trade winds to typhoons. (6) The Pacific Ocean is a huge body of water covering over sixty-four million square miles. (7) The Pacific Ocean is twice the size of any other ocean on the surface of the world. (8) There are a large number of trenches and mountain peaks to be found in the ocean. (9) The Pacific Ocean covers more than twice as large an area as the Atlantic Ocean. (10) Many different kinds of plants and other sea life live at various depths of the ocean. (11) Sir Francis Drake and Captain James Cook were among the many explorers who sailed the Pacific. (12) Guam is an important island in the Pacific.

Find the numbers of the five sentences which support the hypothesis. Check your answers with the key.

HOW DID YOU DO?

